

## THE DALLAS POST

## EDITORIALS

## If you agree or not with action, soldiers deserve our support

By the time you read this, United States soldiers may be engaged in combat with Iraqi forces. If that is the case, we must all hope and pray for the swiftest and least costly end to the conflict.

Whether or not one agrees with our presence and purpose in the confrontation, the men and women who have been asked to face injury or death carrying out the orders of their commander-in-chief must be supported to the fullest extent. If we have learned anything from the experiences of the Vietnam war, it is that dissatisfaction with our government's policy should not be transferred to those who are fulfilling their duty. We can be certain that the same arguments for or against this mission taking place in the civilian population are occurring between the troops. But of course, we have the luxury of distance; the soldiers don't, and will carry out their orders regardless of their personal preferences.

Our adventure in the desert may turn out to be George's Folly or a turning point in international relations, or neither. Whatever the outcome, our soldiers deserve our praise and admiration for their good conduct, dedication and skill under most difficult circumstances.

## Protect yourself when driving on Route 309

Until something is done to better control traffic on Route 309, it will be left to individual motorists traveling on the highway to protect their own safety in the best way possible. Some valuable steps you can take include:

- Wear seat and shoulder belts. Short of avoiding accidents entirely, nothing else can so effectively prevent injury or death. Two of the three persons involved in the most recent serious wreck were not wearing seat belts. One was killed, the other is still in the hospital. The one who wore a belt was released after a couple of days in the hospital.

- Slow down. Speeds on the highway are too high for the volume of traffic and the number of entrances to it. It's very easy to simply go along with the speed of the majority of drivers, which is often 20 miles per hour above posted limits.

- Drive defensively. Watch out for vehicles that may turn, slow down, stop or cross traffic lanes. Until more traffic signals are installed, several intersections pose particular dangers, and drivers should be especially alert when approaching them.

## Fencing pools makes sense for safety

Jackson Township supervisors are on the right track in their campaign to have owners of swimming pools install fencing adequate to keep children away from the water. Too many children have lost their lives after accidentally falling into pools, a tragedy that can be nearly eliminated by installing fences.

It's hard to imagine a pool owner not wanting to obey the ordinance, since there is so much in their own interest to do so. The potential liability should such an accident occur would be enormous. Besides, it's a safe bet that many pool owners have children of their own, who are just as likely as a neighbor's kids to mistakenly fall in.

Pool owners everywhere would be wise to follow the example set in Jackson Township, and be sure their pools are made as safe as possible before the next swimming season.



Heavy snowfall

(Photo by Charlotte Bartizek)

## Library news

## Variety of tax forms now available

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library 1990 Friends of the Library campaign has reached an all-time high. Last week, I was thrilled to report the total of \$9,021 and this week a check came in the mail from a long time devoted friend, patron and library supporter who has recently relocated to Connecticut; in the amount of \$300. This brings our 1990 figure to \$9,321 and this is indeed appreciated as the library incurred some unexpected expenses during the year which left us in somewhat of a financial squeeze. This "Friends" campaign money will alleviate the situation somewhat. Super supporters!

The library has available in the foyer of the library most of the income tax papers necessary to satisfy the Internal Revenue Service with reporting of 1990 income and expenses. We have the Pennsylvania State Tax form and booklet and the Federal packet for the 1040; 1040A and 1040EZ. We also have for reference use only, the publication 17 for use in preparing 1990 returns.

Included in the take-out area are many of the single sheet forms including Child and dependent care expenses; Employee business expenses; Farm income and expenses; Capital gains and losses; Profit or loss from business; Social Security self-employment tax and many other forms. We also have a notebook containing the reproducible federal tax forms. The photo-

copies of these forms are acceptable for filing your tax return while the reproducible IS NOT! These forms may be obtained from the circulation desk and copied on our copy machine at a cost of 25 cents per page.

The library Board of Directors held their January meeting recently at the library and are beginning to make plans for the 1991 library auction to be held in July. This coming year will be the 45th annual auction, which makes it commemorative in itself. The board members would like to offer an invitation to the members of the community to become involved actively in this major fund-raising function of this library. We are looking for people to help in every area of the event. It is an exciting summer event and we continue to need community involvement to make it a success. Please contact the library or a member of the board directors if you are interested in working on this super production to finance your library.

New books at the library: "Favorite Animal Stories in Large Print" is a double donation to the library. It is a large print book, which many of our borrowers enjoy and it is given in honor of the 30th wedding anniversary of Jean and Leon Race by Minnie and Edward Sidorek. It is heart-warming selection of truly

memorable animal stories including the works of our most-beloved storytellers. These stories are combined to showcase the rich diversity in the animal kingdom. From "king of the jungle" to "man's best friend" animals of many species and habitats are featured here. The pieces also span a range of tone and mood, and speak of the warm and abiding friendship that exists between animals and humans.

"All Creatures Great and Small" by James Herriot has been a most enjoyable and popular book since its original copyright in 1972. We have the book in large print produced by G.K. Hall in 1973. This book was donated to the library by the Dallas Lions Club. The story is a deeply warm, humorous first-person account of a young animal doctor starting his career in the Yorkshire near 40 years before, and shines with the love of life. The author of this book was a practicing veterinary surgeon who grew up in Scoutland and went to work in the Yorkshire Dales after graduating from Glasgow Veterinary College. This is truly a happy book.

The librarian asked the boy to pay the fines due on his overdue book. His answer, "I don't have to pay, because my name is Crime and 'Crime doesn't pay'".

The Dallas Post encourages its readers to share their opinions with the community by writing a letter to the editor. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number so that we may verify their authenticity. We will not publish anonymous letters. Send letters to The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612.

## Only yesterday

60 Years Ago - Jan. 16, 1931  
COUNTY HOLDS  
POULTRY DAY

Luzerne County prepares liens for unpaid taxes totaling \$28,327.14.

Luzerne County 2nd Annual Poultry Day to be held Jan. 27 at American Legion Home, Kingston.

Road building program during 1930 was a big factor in relieving unemployment.

Twelve inch ice and good cutting weather aid ice harvest at Big Stull Dams and at Mountain Springs.

Lehman cagers to play Dallas Friday night in first game of the PIAA League.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 17, 1941  
FLU DOWNS MANY  
RESIDENTS

F.D. Edwards declines Dallas Borough School contract to furnish coal.

Hundreds of residents ill as influenza sweeps through Lehman and Ideltown areas.

Dallas Borough Council approves budget with millage remaining at 15 1/2.

Bank election day brings no changes at First National with all directors reelected and C.A. Frantz remaining as president.

Dallas Borough cagers defeat Dallas Township 44-19.

Wed - Vera Belles and Steven Welitchko; Elizabeth Niemeyer and Edward Jones.

Engaged - Grace Morris and Robert Bachman.

Tyrone Power stars in "Mark of Zorro" at Himmler Theatre.

40 Years Ago - Jan. 19, 1951  
AREA FARMERS WIN  
AT STATE FARM SHOW

Back Mountain Memorial Library Association to name directors to replace those retiring after three years.

Hillside Farms and Ralph Sand win with their prize stock at the 1951 State Farm Show.

PFC Andrew Zosh Jr. to leave for overseas duty following a 20-day furlough with his parents.

Public forum to be held on jointure with school board directors to be present.

Engaged - Marilyn Daily and Robert Wrigley; Reba Price and Clinton E. Cobleigh.

Wed - Ruth Wilson Laurenc and John Durbin; Leona Cigarsky and Carl A. Aston.

Harter and Kingston Township tied for top spot in the high school league, will break that tie when they play each other on tonight's schedule.

30 Years Ago - Jan. 19, 1961  
LIBRARY GAINS  
1,500 BORROWERS

First place is at stake as alert young Westmoreland team meets Swoyersville team tonight.

Back Mountain Library gains 1,500 borrowers during the year.

Tom Richardson accepts a position as a buyer for Back Mountain Lumber and Coal Company.

Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs have been invited to meet with the Dallas School Board and Back Mountain YMCA at a dinner in the cafeteria in the Dallas Junior High School.

Back Mountain students to see inaugural ceremonies for the new president John F. Kennedy on television.

Engaged - Carol Wagner and Harry S. Foreman; Priscilla Mae Hendricks and Wallace F. Benjamin.

Ralph Hazletine to speak tonight on early days of the paper-mills, once a part of important industry in this area.

Lake-Lehman loses 50-38 to Wilkes-Barre Township.

Prince of Peace hands Harveys Lake its first loss in the Church Cage League.

20 Years Ago - Jan. 21, 1971  
BOROUGH EXPAND  
RECREATION AREA

Dallas Borough expands recreation facilities at the new playground.

Dallas Hardware Store will reopen next Thursday under the new management of Harry C. Roat, after closed for a year due to illness of former owner Jim Hutchinson.

Dallas School Board president Harry Lefko appoints a three-man committee, Hanford Eckman, John LaBerge and Earl D. Fritzsche, to recommend three qualified candidates for the position of district superintendent.

Lynn Sheehan named president of the Dallas Ambulance Association.

Paul Sabol is appointed as the fifth patrolman to the Kingston Township Police Department.

Engaged - Karen Yablonski and James F. Rittenhouse, Jr.; Carol Evans and Anthony J. Honko.

Dallas Mounts are defeated 27-17 by the Meyers Mohawks.

## Anderson afield

## Abuse of public land under archaic laws must be stopped

By John M. Anderson

If you want to grow marijuana, build your vacation cabin, store toxic chemicals or some such mischief on public lands, you can do it all legal-like. Such goings on do, in fact, occur with disgusting frequency. That's because the 1872 Mining Law is still the law of the land; at least on federal public land.

Admittedly, there's not much public land in these parts, but out where The West begins, there is a fair amount. Anyone can file hardrock mineral claims on it. Under this archaic statute, these claims can be held for decades or more. In some instances, individuals can gain title to the land for free or at a minimum cost.

The Wildlife Management In-

stitute, quoting a report filed by the General Accounting Office, says the most common abuse is construction of houses and cabins on claims. According to the report, some of these structures include "amenities such as gazebos, garages, greenhouses, and satellite television dishes. All these claim holders live rent-free on public land."

You are probably aware that wealthy western stockmen graze their cattle and sheep on your national forests, national grasslands, national wildlife refuges, and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. They pay the government only a fraction of what it costs to graze on private land. Please don't talk to me about undeserving poor folks on welfare. There's many a mil-

lionaire western cattleman getting an over-sized handout at taxpayers' expense.

The old 1872 Mining Law is also used to milk the government of taxpayer money. One claimant, according to the Wildlife Management Institute, filed on 540 acres in Nevada that were part of a proposed nuclear waste dump to be run by the Energy Department. Plans for the federal waste site were well known when the claim was filed, but the Energy Department was forced to buy out the claim holder for a reported \$249,500.

The GAO said the 1872 Law was part of goldmining schemes that have fraudulently taken about \$250 million from investors in recent years. The agency recommended that the law be amended

to eliminate provisions that allow individuals to get title to public land and minerals through the claim process.

Senator Dale Bumpers from Arkansas and Congressman Rahall from West Virginia are sponsoring legislation to reform the 1872 law. S. 1126 and H.R. 3866 would prohibit claimants from getting title to the land and require payment for minerals removed.

Now it happens that the Secretary of Interior is almost always a westerner. Quite often he has lost an election and gets to be Secretary of Interior as a consolation prize. The Interior Department administers the mining law. Guess who is opposing the above bills? None other than Secretary Lujan, a good ol' boy from New Mexico.

The Government Accounting Office is supposed to be and is the watchdog over such shenanigans by federal agencies. In the last five years, GAO has issued seven reports on hardrock mining. Some have been highly critical. The most recent, "Federal Land Management: The Mining Law of 1872 Needs Revision", was published in August.

Not surprisingly, the Senator from Nevada agrees with Lujan. How does your Senator or Congressman stand?

John M. "Frosty" Anderson was Director of the Wildlife Department of the National Audubon Society from 1966 until his retirement in 1987.